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Corduroy Suits 3.00	Overcoats 2.50
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Skirts 1.25	
Jackets 1.25	
Sweaters—Wool .75	
Sweaters—Silk 1.25	
Ladies' Garments Cleaned	Gentlemen's Garments Cleaned
Dresses—Woolen \$1.00	Suits—Business \$1.00
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Cotton (fancy) 1.25	Palm Beach 1.00
Cotton (plain) 1.00	White Flannel 1.50
Sailor Suit (blue) 1.00	Pants .50
Sailor Suit (white) 1.25	Flannel Pants .75
Suits—Business \$1.00	Vest .25
White and Silk 1.50	Coat .75
Velvet 2.00	Overcoats \$1.00
Corduroy 1.50	Fur-lined Overcoats 2.50
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Coats—Sport \$1.00	Ties (each) .10
White (long) 1.50	Ties (three) .25
Plush 1.50	Bath Robe .75
Silk (long) 1.50	Muffs .15
Fur 1.50	Shirts—Mercerized \$ .35
Fur lined 2.50	Silk .50
Evening Wraps 1.50	Sweaters .35
Waists—Plain (wool or silk) .50	Hats .25
Lace and Chiffon .65	Caps .15
Skirts .75	
Jackets .75	
Sweaters—Wool .35	
Silk .75	
Kimono—Cotton .75	
Silk (plain) 1.00	
Silk (lined) 1.25	
Robes (silk and lined) \$1.50	
Petticoat .35	
Gloves—Short .10	
Long .15	
Corsets .35	
Slippers .25	
Shoes .35	
Parasols .50	
Caps .15	
Auto Vests .35	
Furs (set) .75	
Leather Belts .10	
Silk Slip .75	
Bath Robe .75	

## J. A. Gerhardt

ALMA, MICHIGAN

The Record One Year for \$1

## The IRON TRAIL

By REX BEACH

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### SYNOPSIS

Murray O'Neil, railroad builder, on his way to Alaska, is a passenger on the Nebraskan. The ship runs aground. O'Neil helps Captain Johnny Brennan to quell a panic among the passengers.

As the ship settles O'Neil is accosted by a beautiful girl, and plunges overboard with her. They are picked up by Captain Brennan. She proves to be Natalie Gerard, whose mother is the friend of Curtis Gordon, O'Neil's unscrupulous business rival.

O'Neil and Natalie journey to Hope to gether. She tells him of her mother and Gordon. When they arrive at Hope Gordon meets them.

O'Neil is impressed with the magnetism of his rival, but is sure his plans are sound. Tom Slater quits Gordon for O'Neil. They go to Cortez in time to save Dan Appleton in a crooked card game.

Appleton, an engineer, had worked for Gordon. He casts his fortunes with O'Neil. O'Neil leads his men to a wild country, convinced he can build a railroad up the Salmon river.

Eliza Appleton is sent to Omar to expose the men who are trying to snatch control of an empire. She meets her brother and Natalie. Dan is worried over a possible newspaper attack by Eliza or O'Neil.

O'Neil meets his crew in Seattle, where a newspaper woman gets on the phone. She proves to be Dan Appleton's sister. O'Neil tells her his plans, but not for publication.

There's a scene when Curtis Gordon asks Gloria to be his bride. Miss Golden isn't a fit person to meet Natalie. Gordon says she has money and he needs her in his schemes.

In her extremity Mrs. Gerard listens to Natalie's plea to go to the Irish prince. O'Neil finds places for them in his nest. Gordon, thoroughly enraged, plans to cripple O'Neil.

Then tells his sister he's desperately in love with Natalie and asks her to win O'Neil, as he considers him a rival. Dan is out with a gun to destroy and holds a canyon threatened by Gordon's men.

O'Neil takes the girls on a trip to Jackson. He decides to make a perilous voyage in a skiff down the Salmon river. Eliza, despite his pleadings, accompanies him.

Dan Appleton accepts O'Neil's offer of \$10,000 to the man who cut a cable in the work done by Gordon. After cutting the cable Appleton is set upon by a crowd of Gordon's, but is rescued by O'Neil's men.

Of all those who suffered by the storm Curtis Gordon took his misfortune hardest. This had been a black season for him indeed. Beginning with O'Neil's rivalry, everything had gone against him. He had dropped his coal interests at Kyak in favor of the copper mine because they failed to yield quick profits. Then he had learned that the mine was valueless and realized that it could not serve him much longer as a means of raising funds. Still, he had trusted that by taking a vigorous part in the railroad struggle he would be able either to recoup his fortunes or at least to effect a compromise in the shadow of which his fiasco at Hope would be forgotten. As yet the truth about Hope Consolidated was not generally known to his stockholders, but a certain restlessness among them had become troublesome. The stream of money had diminished alarmingly, and it was largely because of this that he had bought the McDermost right of way and moved to Kyak. And now just as he had his affairs in shape for another and a greater campaign of stock flotation the storm had come to ruin him.

The bitterest element in his defeat was the realization that O'Neil, who had bested him at every turn, was destined to profit by the very blow which crushed him. Defeat at the hands of the copper trust he would have accepted with a fairly good grace, but the mere thought that Murray O'Neil, whom he considered in every way his inferior, had gained the upper hand was intolerable. It was in keeping with Gordon's character that instead of blaming his own judgment he became furiously angry at the trust for the mistake of its engineers and held them responsible for his desperate situation. That it was truly desperate he very soon realized, since disaster to his railroad project meant that his stockholders would be around his ears like a swarm of hornets, and once they understood the true state of affairs at Hope the complete collapse of his fortunes would surely follow.

During the days succeeding the storm he scarcely knew where to turn, so harassed was he; yet he never for a moment wavered in his resolve to make O'Neil pay for his interference, and to exact a reckoning from Gloria Gerard.

Natalie's presence in Kyak confirmed his belief that O'Neil was interested in her, and he began to plan a stroke by which he could take revenge upon all three. It did not promise in any way to help him out of his financial straits, but at least it would give him a certain satisfaction.

He sent word to the girl that he would like to see her.

Gordon found his erstwhile ward greatly improved by her recent life. She was brown, vigorous, healthy; her physical charms quickened his pulses.

"You must have a very good reason for coming to see me," she began. "I don't flatter myself that it is from affection."

"There you wrong me," he assured her, with the warm earnestness he so easily assumed. "I have always regarded you as a daughter."

"I have no faith in you."

"Exactly, and the knowledge distresses me. You and Gloria were a large part of my life. I can't bear to lose you. I hope, and I believe, that her regard for me has changed no more than mine for her. It remains for me to regain yours."

"That is impossible. You had the chance."

"My dear, you can't know my reasons for acting as I did at Omar. But those reasons no longer exist."

"Just what—do you mean by that?" stammered Natalie.

"I mean what I say. I'm ready to marry your mother."

"When?"

"At once. You shall plead my cause for me."

"That isn't necessary. You know mother is only waiting for you. It means so much to her that she couldn't refuse."

"Doesn't it mean anything to you?"

Natalie nodded. "It means more to me than to any one else, perhaps. I have been carrying a great burden, almost more than I can bear. Some times I've wished I were a man—for just long enough to make you pay, Oh yes," she continued as he started to protest. "Don't let us begin this new life with any false conceptions. You may as well know that I shall always hate you. We shall see very little of each other."

"Nonsense! I can't let you feel like that. I shall rest until I win back your love and confidence."

She eyed him searchingly for a moment, then opened her lips to speak but closed them.

"Well?" he prompted her. "Let us be frank with each other."

"I'm merely wondering how greatly your decision has been influenced by the storm and the fight at the railroad crossing. I understand how you feel toward Mr. O'Neil, and I know that he means to crush you."

"Oh!" Gordon's face lighted.

"Yes! He has never said so, but I can feel it. I wonder if you have snatched us up in your extremity as a defense."

"Ridiculous! Your suspicions are insulting. I have nothing to fear from him, for he is broken, his credit is gone and he is in desperate straits."

"Are you in any better condition?"

How long can you fool your people with that pretense of a mine?"

Gordon flushed, but affected scorn. "So! Have you and Gloria begun to balance my wealth against my love? If so?"

"You know she would marry you if you were penniless."

"I hope so and, indeed, I can't be loyal to her necessary. Well, I shall say good-by to Kyak without idle regret, and we three shall return to Hope, where I can attack my problems with fresh courage. I can well afford my loss here if by doing so I gain the woman of my desires."

"You want me to go with you?"

"Of course. You can't stay in Omar, knowing what you do about O'Neil. Remember, I shall be in the position of a father to you."

"Very well. It is the least I can do. Miss Appleton and I are returning to Omar in a few days. Will you go with us?"

"I shall be delighted, my dear." He smiled upon her in his most fatherly fashion, but she was far from feeling the assurance he meant to convey.

When Murray arrived in New York he met with a terrible setback. Her-

man Heidehmann, while admitting that O'Neil's project might be feasible, said that his company could not afford to put any more money into Alaska until something besides plans were available. Mr. Heidehmann was adamant.

### CHAPTER XV.

The Man a Prince Again.

O'NEIL had the faculty of sleeping well in spite of the most tormenting worries. He arose on the morning after his interview with Mr. Heidehmann ready to begin the struggle with all his normal energy and confidence. But the day brought him only discouragement. He had a large acquaintance. The mention of his name in quarters where he was not personally known gained him respectful attention, but he found him-

self working in the shadow of the copper trust, and its silent influence overcame his strongest arguments.

No one, it seemed, cared to risk even a semblance of rivalry with that monstrous aggregation of capital, for the interlarding of financial interests was amazingly intricate, and financiers were fearful of the least misstep. Everywhere O'Neil encountered the same disheartening timidity. His battle, it seemed, had been lost before it was begun.

Days passed in fruitless endeavors. Evenings found O'Neil in his corner of the hotel cafe racking his brain for some way out of his perplexities. Usually he was surrounded by friends, for he continued to entertain in the lavish fashion for which he had gained a reputation, but sometimes he was alone, and then his solitude became more oppressive than it had ever been even in the farthest wastes of the north land. He was unable to feel his responsibility with dreadful keenness, for his associates were in a panic and bombarded him with daily inquiries, vexatious and hard to answer.

One evening as he ran through his mail he found a letter in a woman's handwriting and, glancing at the signature, started. It was signed "Gloria Gerard."

Briefly it apprised him of her marriage and of her and Natalie's return to Hope. Gloria thanked him profusely for his many kindnesses, but she neither expressed nor implied an invitation for him to visit them.

He smiled a little grimly. Already her loyalty had veered to Gordon's side, and Natalie no doubt shared her feeling. Well, it was but natural perhaps.

(Continued next week)

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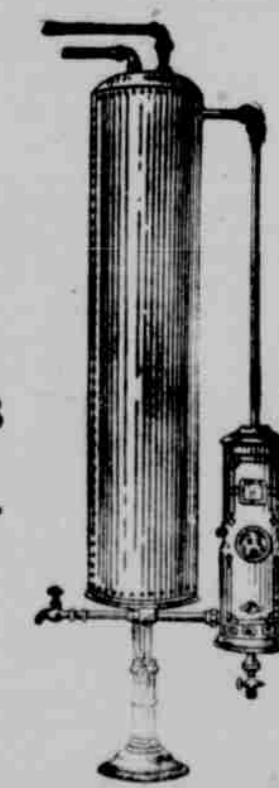
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